



BLENDED

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMIES FOR ALL

ONLINE PHASE: 15 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

FACE-TO-FACE IN TURIN: 29 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2025

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

OVERVIEW

The 2025 Rural Development Academy comes at a crucial time as rural economies worldwide strive to create opportunities for decent work and promote social inclusion in an era of environmental change. Rural areas increasingly face challenges like climate impacts, biodiversity loss and shifting agricultural demands. This Academy will provide a platform to explore how a just transition can foster inclusive and resilient rural economies. A just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all must be rooted in social justice and responsive to intergenerational needs, including the aspirations of young women and men in rural areas, leaving no one behind.

Climate change has far-reaching impacts on the world of work in rural areas. Sectors such as agriculture, forestry or tourism are both major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. At the same time, rural areas hold significant potential for creating green jobs and promoting sustainable diversification of rural livelihoods, playing a crucial role for food security and poverty eradication. However, this potential will only be realized if the prevailing decent work deficits are addressed, including working poverty, informality, lack of social protection and exposure to significant occupational safety hazards and risks.

A just transition towards environmentally sustainable rural areas requires investments in policies that promote low-carbon and circular economy practices, cleaner technologies and resource efficiency and opportunities for decent work. A just transition needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty.

Participants in the Rural Development Academy will explore strategies that advance decent work and just transition in the rural economy, emphasizing rights, sustainable livelihoods, occupational safety and health, gender equality, and more. The Academy favours an integrated approach, in which employment policies, social protection frameworks and environmentally responsible practices support a balanced and equitable development model based on social dialogue. It aims to ensure that rural communities are empowered in the shift towards greener, more digitalized and more sustainable and inclusive economies.

OBJECTIVES

The 2025 Rural Development Academy will:

- examine the principles of a just transition, exploring how rural development can align with environmental sustainability while promoting decent work and social inclusion;
- equip participants with knowledge on policies and tools to promote decent work in the rural economy;
- foster skills to design, implement and adapt strategies in key rural economic sectors, taking into account the needs of diverse rural contexts;
- share policies and strategies to create decent work opportunities in rural areas by fostering the potential of the green and blue economy;

- facilitate an exchange of best practices, with a focus on social dialogue and stakeholder engagement, to ensure that rural enterprises, workers and communities are active participants in shaping their sustainable future;
- through highly interactive sessions, allow for participants to share expertise, engage in problem-solving and co-create solutions to achieve environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive rural development.

TARGET GROUP

The 2025 Rural Development Academy targets:

- the ILO's tripartite constituents;
- policymakers involved in rural development;
- practitioners from development partner agencies and international organizations;
- social innovators and entrepreneurs; and
- academia and members of civil society organizations.

STRUCTURE

The Academy will consist of two interconnected phases. The programme will start with a two-week online phase, followed by a one-week face-to-face programme at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy. To receive the Rural Development Academy certification, participants need to complete both phases of the programme.

Online phase: 15 – 26 September 2025

During the two weeks online phase of the Academy, participants will participate in:

- Self-guided learning modules on essential aspects of decent work in the rural economy; and
- Webinars with renowned experts bringing the latest knowledge on key rural development topics.

The online phase will require an estimated 12 hours of participant commitment over two weeks.

Face-to-face Phase in Turin: 29 September – 3 October 2025

During the week-long face-to-face sessions at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, participants will delve deeper into thematic master classes, elective sessions, and hands-on activities. The time commitment for participants will be approximately 30 hours.

The face-to-face phase will include:

Master Classes on topics relevant to promoting decent work and a just transition in the rural economy.

Elective Sessions to allow participants to explore specific areas of interest in smaller groups.

Study Visits in and around Turin, focusing on green business models, eco-tourism and sustainable value chains.

A Knowledge Fair will allow participants to exhibit and learn about new and innovative tools, knowledge products and approaches to promote decent work and a just transition in the rural economy. The fair will be free-flowing, open, and flexible in format to encourage informal exchanges among participants.

Coffee with Expert Sessions will be offered to allow participants to meet with experts and discuss topics of joint interest.

LANGUAGES

The Academy will be offered in English, French and Spanish. Plenary sessions will be supported by simultaneous translation in the three languages, while elective courses will mostly be offered in two languages, ensuring different options for all three language groups.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

After successfully completing all required activities, participants obtain an official **ITCilo Certificate of Participation** in Digital Credentials Format.

The tuition fee for this course is **€2,590** (€1,870 tuition + €720 subsistence)

If the participation is sponsored by an institution, the application should be accompanied by a letter from the sponsoring organization.

For further information, please email rural@itcilo.org.

HOW TO APPLY?

If you wish to participate in this course, please fill in the online application form available here: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/STF/A9718181/en>

Applications must be received no later than **15 August 2025**.

CAMPUS LIFE

A THRIVING UNITED NATIONS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Three organizations** from the United Nations system on campus
- **More than 300 training courses** and activities in a stimulating international environment
- **Thousands of participants** from all over the world

ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

Grab a campus bicycle and explore the Turin Centre.

Located in a leafy park on the banks of the Po River, it's a great place for study and collaboration. Experience innovative learning and training methods in modern classrooms equipped with simultaneous translation services.

HOUSING, DINING, AND MORE

Comprising more than 280 private dormitories, the **Turin Campus provides a broad range of services for course participants and partners** including a free-flow restaurant, travel agency, laundromat, post office, gym, medical services and a reception desk open 24/7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY

Participants can enjoy social events organized by the Turin Centre as well as by their course facilitators. Whether on or off campus, people from different cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to listen to live music together, cook and share traditional foods, or team up to play games and network.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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